[9.]

NARRATIVE

Of the Great and Bloody Fight

BETWEEN THE

Prince of Orange

AND THE

Duke of Orleans

The King of *Frances* General,

NEAR THE

City of St. Omers,

On Sunday the first of *April* 1677. with the Numbers of the Kil'd and Wounded Men.

BEING AN

Impartial Account.

Licensed according to Order.

LONDON, Printed for *T. M.* 1677.

A

NARRATIVE

Of the Great and Bloody Fight

BETWEEN THE

Prince of Orange

AND THE

Duke of Orleans

The King of France's General,

NEAR THE

City of St. Omers,

On Sunday the 11th of April 1677. with the Numbers of the Kil'd and Wounded Men.

BEING AN

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LONDON, Printed for T. M. 1677.

A Narrative of the Great and Bloody Fight between the Prince of *Orange* and the Duke of *Orleans*, the King of *France*'s General, near the City of St. *Omers* on *Sunday* the first of *April*, 1677.

THE disapointment the Prince of *Orange* met with at *Maestricht* the Last year, occasioned by the Duke *de Villa Hermosa*, not impeding the Count *Schomberg* from Relieving the said place, which he had brought to such extremity, that they were not able to defend the Town much longer without relief, and not having then the Sole Command, and other Confederate Princes being joyned with him, made him resolve upon something that might vindicate his Honor and Courage, (and afterwards to act distinctly) in order to which the last *Winter* he recruited his Army, not only taking care to furnish them with all necessaries and increase their numbers, but like a discreet General well disciplin'd them. And therefore with all dilligence brought them into the Field to prevent the progress of the *French*, and so to that purpose at *Ipres* on the 8 Instant *Novstile*, drew his Army up in *Battalia*, from whence the next day he marcht to the first opposition which was at the River *Peene*, which was posted by the *French*, whereupon the Prince Commanded an Attack upon them which proved with good success, and made the *French* retreat, and give way to the *Dutch* after some hours dispute, after which the Prince caused several Bridges to be throne over the River for his Army to pass, using all means to ges to the relief of St. *Omers* before the Detachement arrived there from *Cambray* for the Enemies reinforcement, but the ways proving very deep and heavy, much Retarded his Highness *March*. On the 11. *ditto*, his Highness came in view of the *French* Army commanded by the Duke of *Orleans* being strengthd the Evening before by the Duke of *Luxemburghs* Army from *Cambray*; the Prince notwithstanding the odds and the want of Count *Nassaus* Presence, on *Sunday* about nine a Clock in the Morning engaged the Enemy till Evening with great Courage and Gallantry, beating down the left-wing of the *French* Army for some hours, but continual supplies, and the Courage of the Valliant Duke of *Orleans* turned the Scale and made the *Dutch* Retreat in some disorder.

Till such time as they Retreated to a narrow Pass and a graft, where the Princes Artillery and Baggage was placed, who disputed it till it was quite dark, and where the Prince was Resolved to maintain the fight the next day, but his *Scouts* bringing intelligence the Count *de Nassau* was

not

not come in, nor any hopes in Reasonable time, made him take a Resolution to march off with as much Honour as the nature of the business would allow, which was excellent well performed, for though the *French* were far Superiour to him in Horse, his Highness taking the advantage of the ground which was most Inclosures and Ditches, made his retreat more easie by lining the Hedges and maintaining the Passes, which cost the *French* much Pains and blood, but the *French* pressing very vigorously upon the *Dutch*, and their want of Cavalry made it impossible for them to bring off their Guns and Baggage, and therefore were forc'd to leave them behind, the Prince between this and *Ipre* the next day marcht in good order, having the night before taken care of all the wounded men, so that if the *French* had over taken them, they would run the hazard of another Battle, but they were more intent upon the taking in of St. *Omers* as is supposed, in this dispute there was much Resolution on both sides, the *Dutch*, though worsted, was much to be commended, and 'tis thought had not the badness of the ways Prevented them, had carried off their Guns and Artillery.

We have not as yet an exact Account of what Persons of Quality are Killed or taken on either side, but what is uncertain, and therefore think it not prudence to declare it, though Letters say people of Eminence on both sides.

The *French* having defeated the Prince, remained Masters of the field. In this encounter, by the best computation, the *Dutch* have lost 4000 men and 2000 wounded, which were carried off; besides others that were able to March off, The *French* loss supposed not so considerable by some hundreds, however the Gentlemen at Armes and the Kings Musketeers suffered so much upon this occasion, as being the people that opposed the fury of the Enemy most, Charged the Princes Guards and choicest of his Infantry, who were at Push of Pike and Swords Point for neer an hour together, before either gave way, neither were the Courage and endeavours of the besieged wanting who made several brisk and resolute Sallies upon the Ports, which the Duke had ordered to be filled with men to prevent any mischief from the Town upon the Rear of his Army, whilst the Enemy was in the Van, and had certainly carried *Dixmuyden*, had not a Regement of Horse and Dragoons come into the relief of the Town, who made the besieged return twice as fast as they came out, Leaving behind them several Dead bodies and some Prisoners. The Garrison of St. *Omers* are full of Courage and Resolution beyond any of the *Spanish* Garrisons, the *French* have late down before as yet, but how long they shall be able to withstand the *French* after the Princes retreat, without further supplies, a little time will produce.

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